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The British Journal of Psychiatry

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**A better future for
mental health science**

Bilsland and Boyce

**The role of
impairment in the
diagnosis of autism**

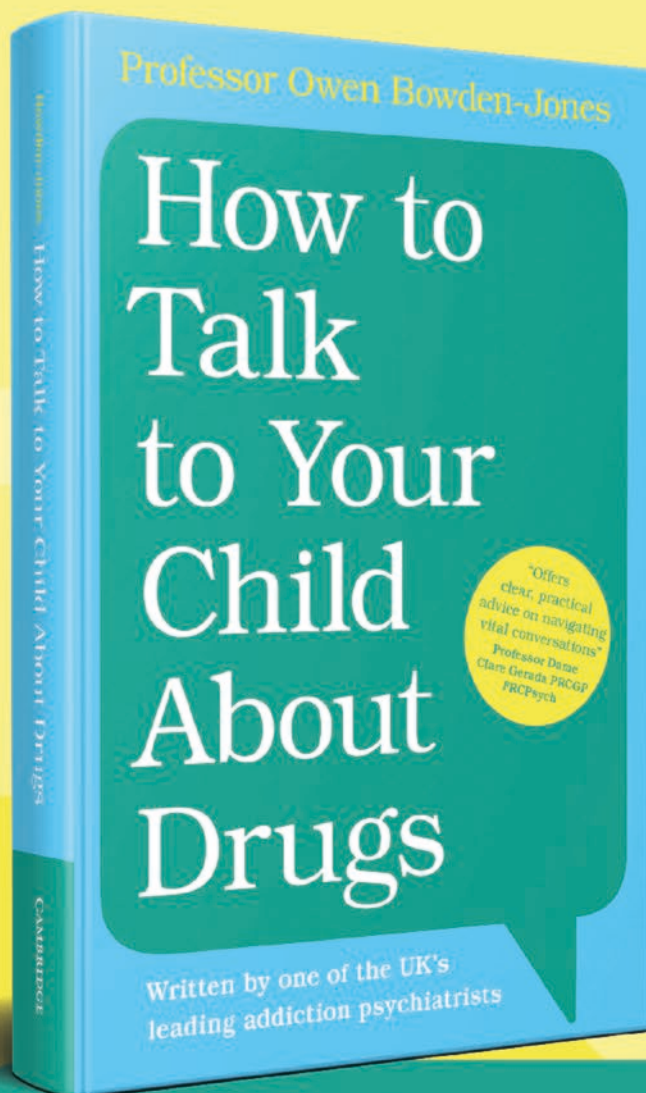
Hollingdale et al

**Attitudes towards
mental health
professionals in
social media**

Battle et al

**The identity of
people of colour:
deflecting the
racialised lens**

Arya



How to Talk to Your Child About Drugs

Professor Owen
Bowden-Jones,
University College
London

Paperback | 9781009374811

Broaching the topic of drugs and drug use with your child can feel particularly daunting. With the illegal drug market constantly evolving, it can be difficult to stay up to date with the latest information. *How to Talk to Your Child About Drugs* is an evidence-based, practical guide from a leading addiction specialist.

The book offers clear and accessible guidance for parents on how to have effective conversations with their child about this difficult topic. It provides a summary of both established and newly emerging drugs, how drugs work in the brain, how they cause harm, and why some people are more vulnerable than others to problems, including signs parents should be looking out for.

This is a book that all parents will need at some stage. It will help you feel better informed about drugs, more confident in talking to your child, and better equipped to tackle any problems.

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Vincent Van Gogh. The Courtyard of the Hospital at Arles, 1889.

Collection Oskar Reinhart. 'Am Römerholz', Winterthur.

We have previously featured Van Gogh's Self-portrait with Bandaged Ear (May, 2017), which depicted the aftermath of his self-mutilation. In this issue and the next one, we feature his two paintings of the Hospital at Arles, where he was subsequently admitted.

Van Gogh had moved from Paris to Arles in 1888 and was living in a two storey building that came to be known as the 'Yellow House'. He had invited Paul Gauguin to stay with him and paint. Gauguin arrived in October 1888, but their relationship quickly deteriorated. Gauguin felt that Vincent was behaving strangely and, on 23 December, fearing for his own safety, he moved out to a nearby hotel. On the same day, Van Gogh had an acute mental crisis. He cut off his left ear with a razor and presented it to a young woman at the local brothel. He was admitted to the Hospital at Arles the following day. Doctors considered that he 'suffered from an attack of acute mania with generalized delirium'. The resident physician, Dr Felix Rey suggested that Van Gogh's excessive consumption of coffee and alcohol had contributed to his breakdown. He prescribed bromide, a commonly-used sedative. Vincent was discharged on 7 January 1889, but was readmitted on 7 February. This time he claimed that he was being poisoned and saw poisoners everywhere. He also heard voices, making critical remarks about him. He was discharged after a few days, but readmitted on 26 February. On this occasion, he was to stay for four months. It was during this period that he painted this picture of the hospital courtyard. Vincent was judged too mentally unwell to go home and, on 8 May he was transferred to the asylum of Saint-Paul de Mausole in Saint-Rémy, where he would remain for a year.

Text by Allan Beveridge

Bakker N, Van Tilborgh L, Prins L (2016). On the Verge of Insanity: Van Gogh and his Illness. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Acknowledgment

Thanks to the Collection Oskar Reinhart for permission to feature this picture.

We are always looking for interesting and visually appealing images for the cover of the Journal and would welcome suggestions or pictures, which should be sent to Dr Allan Beveridge, British Journal of Psychiatry, 21 Prescott Street, London, E1 8BB, UK or bjp@rcpsych.ac.uk.



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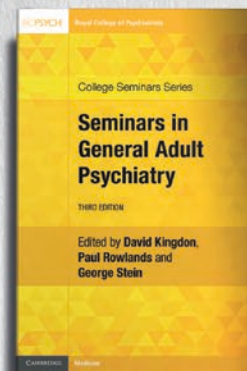
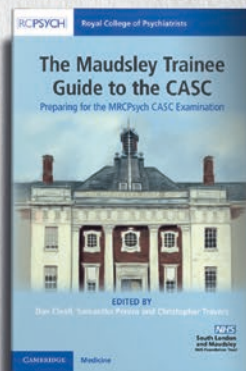
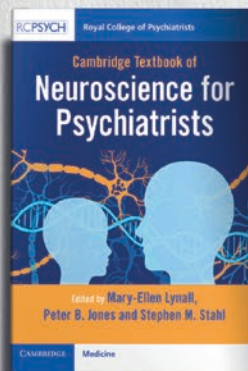
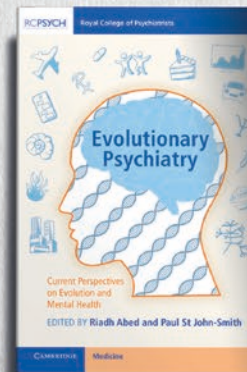
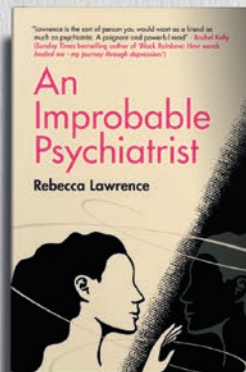
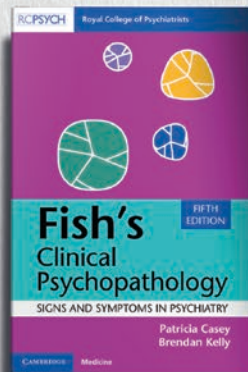
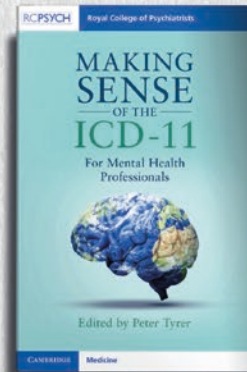
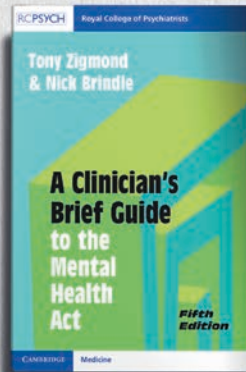
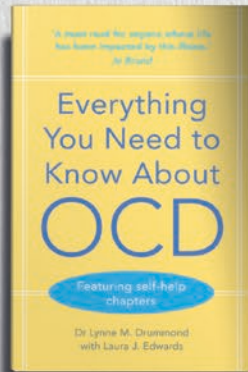
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